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STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

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LT. GOVERNOR

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Michigan Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

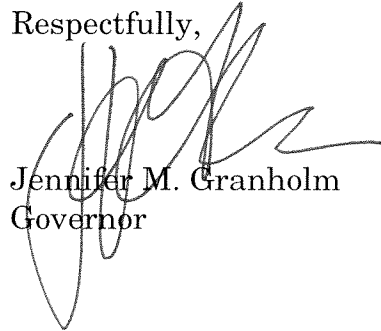
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have signed into law Enrolled Senate Bill 826 and 827, which will strengthen Michigan law to protect consumers from unscrupulous building contractors. I applaud legislative approval of these measures to enhance confidence in the competency of licensed residential builders in Michigan and assure sufficient punishment for contractors who take advantage of consumers by working without a license. These bills impose tougher and more meaningful penalties for unlicensed residential constructions and provide tools for regulators and law enforcement officials to more effectively do their job.

While I have approved Senate Bills 826 and 827, the bills unfortunately will not take effect as they are tie-barred to Enrolled Senate Bills 631 and 632, which I have not approved. In adopting the latter two bills, the Legislature failed to address significant concerns raised by the Department of Labor and Economic Growth and others. Among these concerns is insufficient and inconsistent funding for the aggressive pursuit of unlicensed activity that is needed. The bills also would mandate that every licensed builder buy a code book he or she may never use. Perhaps these problems could have been averted had the normal committee hearing process for this legislation not been circumvented.

Because the State of Michigan must do more to protect its citizens from unlicensed and unscrupulous contractors, I look forward to working with the new 94th Legislature to forge consensus on the issues addressed by these bills and enact legislation that effectively improves protection for Michigan consumers.

Respectfully,


Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor